

Minsmere

Finding your way around

To discover what makes Minsmere special, start exploring today.

The trails take you through a variety of different habitats, bringing you closer to some of Minsmere's most interesting wildlife, from impressive red deer to tiny insects, familiar blue tits to elusive bitterns. Families will love the short loop through the woods to our Wild Zone, den building area and Discovery Centre. Extend the walk further by strolling to the Wildlife Lookout to spot some wildlife.

Most of the paths are easy access, apart from the beach, woodland trail and the section between Bittern and Island Mere hides. A mobility scooter is available to borrow from reception.

Coast trail

A 2.4 km (1.5 mile) circular walk.

This path takes you through the North Bushes, where tired migrants refuel and along the North Wall, which affords great views over the reedbeds. There are five hides overlooking the lagoons – known as the Scrape – where gulls, terns and avocets nest, migrant wading birds feed and hundreds of ducks spend the winter. Head south from the sluice to scan the Minsmere Levels, then return through the reedbeds. The walk should take you two hours to complete.

Island Mere trail

A 2.4 km (1.5 mile) circular walk.

A lovely walk through oak woodland to raised hides overlooking the reedbeds. Listen to the chorus of birdsong in spring or spot tit and finch flocks in winter. Look out for red deer too. Bittern hide offers superb views from five metres above the reeds, while Island Mere hide is spacious with great views of the mere. Return via Canopy hide, which is great for insects in summer, and relax in the skywatching seats on Whin Hill before returning to the visitor centre. Allow two hours to complete the walk.

Woodland trail

A 1.5 km (1 mile) circular walk.

This unsurfaced path takes you deep into Minsmere's woodlands, where you can search for bluebells in May, or insects in summer, including beautiful white admiral and purple hairstreak butterflies, Norfolk and southern hawker dragonflies, and a variety of hoverflies. The path links up with the public bridleway from Eastbridge to Dunwich to allow further exploration and the walk should take you one hour to complete the circuit.

